Diversion of Forest Land at Ambaji for Mining

3706. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gujarat Government has submitted any proposal for diversion of 190 hectares of forest land at Ambaji in Banaskantha District of Gujarat for marble mining by the private parties;

(b) if so, when the proposal was received by Government and the reasons for not giving approval for more than 5 years; and

(c) by when Government propose to grant final approval to the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The proposal of Government of Gujarat for diversion of 190 ha. of forest land for marble mining in respect of 44 parties at Ambaji in Banaskantha district was received in the year 1988. This was found lacking in essential information. After receipt of the wanting information from the State Government, the proposal was approved in principle in 1991 with certain conditions. The report on compliance of stipulated conditions has been received in phases from the State Government and the proposal has been accorded final approval on 27.1.97.

Directives of CPCB to its State Units

3707. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has directed all its State Units to monitor the industries which import waste under the Basel Convention;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to prevent indiscriminate import of hazardous wastes?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) According to the information made available by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), CPCB has directed State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) in Union Territories to monitor polluting industries. No specific directions have been issued by the CPCB to those industries which import hazardous wastes under Basel Convention. However, the Ministry of Environment and Forests have directed the State Governments and State Pollution Control Boards to take necessary action under Section 5 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 for taking expeditious action to implement Hazardous Wastes (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989.

(c) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have written to all the State Governments and Union Territories not to permit any import of hazardous wastes in the country in compliance with the Hon'ble Delhi High Court's order dated 10-4-96 in Writ Petition No. 67—96 in M/s. Harshwardhan Steels V/s. Union of India. Meanwhile, in the Writ Petition No. 657/95 in the matter of Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy V/s. the Union of India, the Hon'ble Supreme Court have passed a judgement on the issue, the details of which are awaited.

Recruitment Proposal of CPCB

3708. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposals for method of recruitment for the posts of Director/Additional Director A-O, Junior Environment Engineer and upgradation of a number of posts at senior levels were sent by the Central